

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable support mechanism comprising:
a first bracket comprising a first screw drive, said first screw drive defining a cylinder with a
periphery;
a second bracket comprising a second screw drive, said second screw drive defining a cylinder with a
periphery;
a connecting member pivotally coupled to the first bracket at a first position and pivotally coupled to
the second bracket at a second position spaced from the first position; and
a linking member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the linking member engaging
the first screw drive, the second end of the linking member engaging the second screw drive.
~~a linking member coupled to the connecting member so as to be movable transversely in relation to~~
~~the connecting member;~~
~~wherein the linking member is arranged to engage the first bracket and the second bracket such that~~
~~pivotal movement of the first bracket in a first rotational direction is related to transverse~~
~~movement of the linking member, which is in turn related to pivotal movement of the second~~
~~bracket also in the first rotational direction.~~
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 1, wherein rotation of the first bracket in a first rotational direction drives the linking member to move in a transverse direction relative to the connecting member, wherein the linking member's movement in said transverse direction drives the second bracket to rotate in the first rotational direction.
~~said first bracket and said second bracket are each coupled to said connecting member with a screw drive mechanism, said screw drive mechanism comprising a cylinder with a periphery.~~
6. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 5, wherein ~~said linking member comprises a first end and a second end, said~~ the linking member's first and second ends comprise having collars formed thereon, wherein said collars engage engaging said first screw drive bracket and said second screw drive bracket by receiving and circumferentially surrounding said cylinders.
7. (Previously Presented) The support mechanism according to claim 6, wherein said cylinders comprise a helical groove extending around said periphery.
8. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 7, wherein said collars further comprise an inwardly projecting follower pin that is received by the groove in the cylinder of said first and second screw drives.
9. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the groove in the cylinder of said first and second screw drives has a direction of rotation that is the same for each of said first and second screw drives ~~first bracket and said second bracket~~ such that pivotal rotation of one of said first or second brackets causes corresponding pivotal rotation in the other of said first or second brackets.

10. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the groove in the cylinder of said first and second screw drives has a pitch that is the same for each of said first and second screw drives ~~first bracket and said second bracket~~ such that pivotal rotation of one of said first or second brackets causes corresponding pivotal rotation in the other of said first or second brackets.
11. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said cylinders each comprises a plurality of parallel grooves, each of said grooves making less than a complete rotation around said periphery, and wherein said linking member's first and second ends each comprise ~~comprises a first end and a second end, each of said ends comprising~~ a plurality of follower pins, each of which project into a corresponding one of said parallel grooves.
12. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the periphery of said cylinders each comprises one or more grooves, and wherein said linking member's first and second ends each comprise ~~comprises a first end and a second end, said first and second ends~~ ~~having~~ a half nut or full nut attached thereto, said half nut or full nut having an inwardly projecting thread on an inside surface thereof for engaging said one or more grooves.
13. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the periphery of said cylinders each comprises a helical mesh teeth arrangement, said linking member is pivotally connected to said connecting member, and wherein said linking member's first and second ends each comprise ~~comprises a first end and a second end, said first and second ends~~ ~~having~~ a helical mesh teeth arrangement for engaging the helical mesh teeth arrangement formed in the periphery of said cylinders, thereby forming a helical crossed gear arrangement.

14. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said mechanism comprises two linking members, each of said linking members having a first end and a second end, said ends having collars formed thereon engaging said first screw drive bracket and said second screw drive bracket by receiving and circumferentially surrounding said cylinders.
15. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 14, wherein said cylinders each comprise a helical groove extending around said periphery, and wherein said helical groove has directions of rotation toward either end of said first and second screw drives that are opposite in direction such that rotation of either the first or second screw drive in one direction causes said linking members to move toward one another and rotation of either the first or second screw drive in an opposite direction causes said linking members to move apart from one another.
16. (Previously Presented) The support mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising biasing means for biasing said linking member to a rest position.
17. (Previously Presented) The support mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a locking mechanism.
18. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 1-15, wherein said first bracket and said second bracket are each coupled to said connecting member with a locking drive mechanism comprising a cylinder having a shaft extending therethrough and further extending through a sidewall of said connecting member, and wherein said locking mechanism comprises a knob with a jam on an inner face thereof, said knob being threadingly connected to said shaft such that when the knob is rotated in one direction, said jam contacts the sidewall of said connecting member, thereby preventing rotation of said bracket.

19. (Currently Amended) The support mechanism according to claim 17 ~~15~~, wherein said locking mechanism is engaged by a weight on one of said first bracket and said second bracket.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Previously Presented) An adjustable support mechanism comprising:
- a first bracket having a screw drive;
 - a second bracket having a screw drive;
 - a connecting member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the connecting member pivotally engaging the first bracket, the second end of the connecting member pivotally engaging the second bracket; and
 - a linking member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the linking member coupling the screw drive of the first bracket, the second end of the linking member coupling the screw drive of the second bracket, such that rotation of the first bracket drives the first and second ends of the linking member to move in a transverse direction relative to the connecting member, such that the transverse movement of the second end of the linking member drives the second bracket to rotate.
22. (New) The support mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the linking member is coupled to the connecting member so as to be movable transversely in relation to the connecting member.
23. (New) The support mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a locking means.
24. (New) The support mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising an angle adjustment means.